Message of the FDI Interim Executive Director

Dear FDI Members and friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress of the FDI since our last meeting in Brazil. We have worked hard over the last two months and have some important accomplishments to share with you.

Firstly, with regards to the Annual World Dental Congress, I am pleased to announce that we have successfully transitioned to a new revenue sharing model for collaborating with our host National Dental Associations. The 2012 AWDC with the Hong Kong Dental Association marked the beginning of this transition, which has been fully applied with the Korean Dental Association for the 2013 Congress. Additionally, we have established a new venue selection process for the FDI Annual World Dental Congresses. 2014 AWDC bid consideration will prioritize locations of interest to dentists and our industry partners. I believe that these two complementary changes to the Congress model and the selection process will be beneficial for Congress attendees, the host NDAs and the FDI.

While on the topic of FDI Congresses, I would like to share with you two recent success for the 2011 and 2012 AWDCs in Mexico and Hong Kong, SAR China. For the first time ever, FDI has pre-booked 95% of the 2011 exhibition space before the official opening of sales. This shows the excitement and commitment of our industry partners and provides a strong indication that the Mexican Congress will be a success for everyone involved. The FDI and the HKDA are also pleased by the by about 5,000 additional libraries worldwide, as well as over 4,000 institutions in developing countries via philanthropic arrangements such as ResearchGate (JENAB, AGORA and OARE), INASP and the Chinese Academy of Science.

It is my hope that you have all heard about VOX, our new membership communications platform, which was launched at the AWDC in Brazil. VOX is specifically designed to facilitate communications between FDI and its Members, as well as between Members. I would like to share two examples of how we plan to leverage VOX to improve communications. Firstly, we want to encourage NDAs to use VOX to share information about their projects and upcoming events. The second way we will use VOX is by having FDI elected and staff regularly publish short summaries of the meetings and events they attend. VOX will provide a platform to communicate about these events and keep FDI Members abreast of the current trends in international public health. If you or your Association are not already using VOX, I urge you to sign up today. Please do not hesitate to contact the head office if you need any assistance.

In summary, the FDI is moving forward and innovating despite the global economic crisis and recent staff turnover. We are working hard to improve the AWDC, communication and the reach of FDI so that we can better serve our Members and do more to promote optimal oral health in future. Finally, I wish you all a joyful holiday season and I am looking forward to our continued collaboration in 2011.

Yours sincerely,

Jerome Estiguard
Interim Executive Director

UN Environmental Programme Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee

FDI will attend forthcoming second session in Japan


The FDI World Dental Federation (FDI) acknowledged its responsibilities with regards to human health and the environment and became actively involved with UNEP, joining the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) in 2009.

At the 2009 FDI Annual World Dental Congress in Singapore, the FDI Council moved to form a Dental Amalgam Task Team (DATTe) to ensure that the international dental community and others regarding dental amalgam are properly and accurately represented in UNEP discussions regarding mercury and would be based on best available science to ensure public health and patient oral health care are not compromised.

The DATTe has been very active, participating in the various meetings, including UNC (http://hph.ehp.niehs.nih.gov/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/UNC/tabid/3234/Default.aspx), as well as collaborating and co-operating with FDI member associations and international stakeholders (eg IADR, IBDM, IFIEA, ISO, WHO) to comprehensively address the issue of dental restorative materials, in particular dental amalgam. The second session of the IN2 to prepare a global legally binding instrument on Mercury (INC 2) will be held in Chiba, Japan, from 24 to 28 January, 2011. http://hph.ehp.niehs.nih.gov/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/INC2/tabid/3234/language/en-US/Default.aspx

The FDI will be well represented at INC 2, with the capability of attending briefings and breakout sessions relevant to dental amalgam. In preparation for a shift of paradigm, the FDI General Assembly (GA) the FDI Annual World Dental Congress, Salvador da Bahia, September 2010. The DATTe proposed a motion that was passed by GA with 84%, which stated that “amalgam is a safe and highly effective restorative material.” The motion went on to call upon governments “to foster and ensure the phase up of effective prevention for dental caries and associated health promotion programmes. This should be linked to preventative disease management, which will result in the phase down of use of current restorative materials, including dental amalgam. These measures will ensure optimal oral health, particularly for those most disadvantaged and in need of treatment.”

The shift to a preventive model of oral health care and associated health promotion programmes is goal of the FDI Global Caries Initiative (www.fdialternativeoralhealth.org/content/global-caries-initiative), a profession led initiative to establish a new paradigm for caries management.

Oral Health Strategy for Africa Workshop on 29th & 30th October 2010

FDI World Dental Federation (FDI) African Regional Organisation (ARO) invited to Durban, South Africa

The FDI World Dental Federation recognises that its global agenda is to be relevant both at regional and country levels.

In this context, the FDI is looking at ways to involve African national organisations to translate its global strategy into regionally shareable approaches to fighting and preventing oral disease and promoting health so as to achieve its vision of leading the world to optimal oral health.

Representatives of FDI Council, FDI elected officers, ARO Executive Committee and National dental vice presidents of ARO participated in the two-day workshop, collating and assessing current FDI policy and programmes, along with those of Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGO), other NGO’s active in oral health in Africa. ARO assisted in surveying African national dental associations about their needs. The aim of the workshop was to develop a proposal for a new paradigm and focus FDI and ARO activities in Africa.
The French Dental Association (ADF) — 40 years of contribution to oral health

The cutting age scientific programme and a large exhibition attracted over 25,000 world-wide participants making the ADF the largest European oral health congress. The ADF congress provides a unique opportunity forFrancophone dentists from Africa, America, Europe, Asia and Middle East to meet.

FDI took the opportunity to meet with key stakeholders from around the world, spreading the word about the FDI mission of promoting optimal oral health, including the Annual World Dental Congresses.

The ADF invited Dr Roberto Vianna, the President of the FDI, to speak at the opening ceremony where, in excellent French, he emphasized the important role the FDI and francophone dentists have played throughout the FDI's 100 year history, including hosting the first FDI Congress and founding the organisation.

Dr Patrick Hesot and Dr Joel Troisillet who are both the Secretaries General of ADF and also FDI Councilor and Member of the FDI Education Committee respectively, provide a good example of the synergies between FDI and ADF.

FDI announces 2015 AWDC venue

Followings stimulating presentations for the 2015 venue selection, the Council debated the proposals during a special session in Salvador da Bahia. The outcome is the selection of Seoul, Korea, who will host the event from August 29, 2015 to September 1, 2015. More information will be available soon on the FDI congress website.